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INTELLIFAX 21

12-15 April 1953

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

ONI FORM 3820-2 (REV. 12-51)

SERIAL NO. 25X1A

20-S-53

29 April 1953

FROM: District Intelligence Office, 8ND

SUBJECT: Liberian Merchant Ship EETHALASSOS - Information on at ports of Lake Charles, La., and Houston, Texas.

SOURCE: DIO 8ND Representatives and Conf. sources in the shipping business

EVALUATION: B-2

REQUEST NO.

BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN PAGE, ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)

This report contains information on subject vessel regarding cargo, crew, charter party, consignees and itinerary while visiting EIGHTH Naval District ports, relative to suspicious circumstances set forth in reference (a). Photostatic reproduction of Charter agreement and copy of crew list are forwarded herewith as enclosures (1) and (2).

Ref: (a) DIO 5ND Secret Speedletter to DIO 8ND Code 32 of 3 April 1953  
 (b) DIO 10ND NNI-96 Ser: 3-S-53. Subj: Greek crew members with possible O.E.N.O or Communist connection, dated 9 January 1953

Encl: (1) Photostatic reproduction of Charter agreement  
 (2) Crew list of vessel at 8ND ports

1. Reference (a) states: "ZONE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, BALTIMORE, MD., ADVISES THAT THE CAPTAIN OF S/S EETHALASSOS (LIB) EX-PANTANASSA (PAN), WAS OFFERED LARGE BONUS BY NEW O LEMOS AND LYROS, TRADING AS EAGLE OCEAN TRANSPORT CO., TO PICK UP CARGO OF GRAIN AT LAKE CHARLES, LA., BY 1200 6 APRIL 1953. CHECK OF CREW LISTS REVEALED PRESENCE OF TWO OENO MEMBERS: SPYROS CHRISTOFORATOS, FIREMAN, DOB 3/1/30 AND ATHANASIOS SARDIS, A.B., DOB 5/15/16. CONSIGNEES OR CARGO UNKNOWN NOR SHIPS NEXT PORT OF CALL. URGENCY OF VOYAGE AND LACK OF CONSIGNEE OR DESTINATION INFORMATION WOULD PLACE THIS SHIP IN A SUSPICIOUS STATUS. SHIP DEPARTED BALTIMORE 2 APRIL 1953. DNI ADVISED BY TWX".

2. Upon receipt of reference (a) representatives of DIO 8ND developed the following information: The SS EETHALASSOS arrived Lake Charles on 9 April 1953 having departed Baltimore 2 April 1953. The vessel is registered under the Liberian flag; is a Liberty type hull of 2910 gross tons, 4,473 net tons, and her call sign is ELHF. She is the ex PANTANASSA and ex SHAHROKH, built in Baltimore, Maryland 1944. Her Liberian Certificate of Registry No. 16-53 reflected that she was purchased April 1953 at Jersey City, New Jersey, by Golfo Deseado Compania Naviera, SA of Panama, RP. The master of the subject vessel advised that beneficial owner was Lemos Navigation and Transport Co., Ltd. Her home port is Monrovia and her master is George E. LEMOS. Subject vessel's general agents are Transworld Marine Transport Co. Strachan Shipping Co. acted as agents at Houston and the Lake Charles Stevedores at Lake Charles.

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DIO 8ND 20-S-53

29 April 1953

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3. Enclosure (1) bears date of 17 March 1953 and indicates subject vessel is under voyage charter to the Bunge Co. of New York City.
  4. Subject vessel lifted 5,533 long tons of rice at Lake Charles and cleared that port on 12 April 1953; entering Houston, Texas 13 April 1953. At Houston, 3,431.5 long tons rice was lifted and vessel cleared port 15 April 1953 for Pusan, Korea to discharge cargo to the South Korean Government.
  5. Enclosure (2) was checked against DIO 8ND files and revealed that SPYROS CHRISTOFORATOS (No. 13) and Athanasios SARDIS (No. 18) are identified in reference (b) as having possible O.E.N.O. or Communist connections. The crew of this vessel caused no trouble, nor were any untoward incidents noted during vessel's stay in EIGHTH Naval District ports.
  6. The only evidence of bonus mentioned in reference (a) was that for laytime saved re charter agreement. The feasibility of subject vessel entering port of Lake Charles by 1200 hours 6 April 1953 was considered physically impossible; the time in transit from Baltimore to Lake Charles being approximately 7 days for a 10 knot liberty ship such as subject vessel. Leaving Baltimore on 2 April 1953, subject vessel could not have conceivably entered the port of Lake Charles earlier than 9 April 1953.
  7. With the exception of crew members mentioned in paragraph five of this report, DIO 8ND representatives found no irregularities to support suspicions outlined in reference (a).

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**SECURITY INFORMATION**

DIO 8ND 20-S-53

29 April 1953

SOURCE INFORMATION: DIO 8ND Representatives and Confidential Sources connected with the shipping business.

PREPARING OFFICER'S COMMENT: In view of the fact that Confidential Sources have in the past proven to be fully competent and reliable, information contained in this report is believed to be accurate.

PREPARED BY:

LT. W. R. BANNECKER

R. D. SAMSOT  
Research Analysis

FORWARDING OFFICER'S COMMENT:

FORWARDED

T. F. CULLEN

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